

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment and Response, claims 7, 17-27, and 29-41 were pending in the Application. Claims 29-41 have been allowed. Herein, it is requested that claims 31, 35, and 40 be amended as shown below, and that claims 7 and 17-27 be cancelled. (No additional claims are proposed.) Therefore, upon entry of the Amendment, allowed claims 29-41 will remain pending in the Application. Entry of the Amendment of and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 29-41 in paragraph 14 of the Office Action. Three of these claims, specifically claims 31, 35, and 40, have been amended only to change language objected to by the Examiner, as described below.

Claim Objections – 37 C.F.R. §1.75

Notwithstanding the allowance of claims 29-41, the Examiner in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action objected to these claims under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, specifically stating that the phrase “the region” lacked an antecedent basis. In response, Applicants have amended claims 31, 35, and 40 to remove this phrase, and apologize for any inconvenience.

In light of the amendments described above, Applicants believe that this ground for objection has been overcome.

Other Claim Objections and Rejections

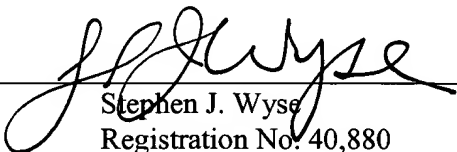
Applicants respectfully suggest that the remaining objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action have been mooted (without acceptance or traverse) by Applicants' canceling of those claims not allowed. The Examiner is requested to notify the undersigned, however, if any further amendment or explanation will be necessary prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to the remaining claims.

In light of the foregoing, claims 29-41 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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